

# New Normal, Who Dis?

I'd say the theme of this issue, if there is one, is *time*. This issue marks one year since the pandemic began in the United States and one year since the bar pivoted to remote work. Sometimes it feels like yesterday, other times it feels like much much longer.

And no wonder. For most, the perception of time has shifted in the last twelve months. Our movements restricted and our ability to plan for the future compromised by doubt, our notions of time and its value have been challenged.

Anthropologist, Felix Ringel, wrote "The current crisis, like many others, could be seen to deprive us of our *temporal agency* — the ability to structure, manage and manipulate our experience of time. For example, many of us will have already lost track of time, wondering which day of the week it is. It feels a bit as if time has come to a standstill." A prominent feature of our experiences of time during crisis is what anthropologist Jane Guyer termed *enforced presentism*: a feeling of being stuck in the present, combined with the inability to plan ahead. When will we see our loved ones again? When can we travel? Or, for many, when can we go back to work? In the midst of this crisis, it can be hard to imagine a future that looks different than the present.

I tried to tell myself that this would all be over in a few weeks or months, but I knew that wasn't true. "But remember H1N1?" I said hopefully. "I don't remember that coming to Colorado," my coworker countered. I knew she was right. This was different. I had seen the drone footage of the swarms of bulldozers frantically building hospitals in that city in China I had never heard of.

So, on March 13<sup>th</sup>, we cleaned off our desks and we said goodbye. The disbelief



My makeshift ironing board desk that I used in the early days of working from home. *Adaptability* — see what I mean?!

dulling the sadness, we all seemed to move in slow motion. Here's where time first began to bend. In the weeks that followed, we found our footing then our groove, then our rhythm. A few months in, it became apparent that we had moved from surviving to thriving. At the CBA and DBA, we saw our participation rates more than double. Our members and our staff cleverly altered in-person events and programs to accommodate a virtual world. We were making it work. Resentfully, but still...

And that is what is so remarkable about humans: our adaptability. The courts adjusted, your firms adjusted, your family adjusted, your bar adjusted, and one year in we are still going strong. We're all certainly over it, but standing tall. And we're doing it together as a community. 🌐



*Charles McGarvey*

Charles McGarvey, Editor  
[cmcgarvey@cobar.org](mailto:cmcgarvey@cobar.org)

## Did you know?



► Daylight Saving Time is now used in over 70 countries worldwide and affects over one billion people each year. The beginning and end dates vary from country to country. (from TimeandDate.com)



► While Germany and Austria were the first countries to use DST in 1916, it is a little-known fact that a few hundred Canadians beat the German Empire by eight years. On July 1, 1908, the residents of Port Arthur, Ontario, today's Thunder Bay, turned their clocks forward by one hour to start the world's first DST period.



► Although modern DST has only been used for about 100 years, ancient civilizations are known to have engaged in comparable practices thousands of years ago. For example, the Roman water clocks used different scales for different months of the year to adjust the daily schedules to the solar time.



### ON THE COVER

#### Daniels and Fisher Tower

Built as part of the Daniels & Fisher department store in 1910, it was the tallest building between the Mississippi River and the state of California at the time of construction, at a height of 325 feet. Today the Clock Tower is the backdrop for Night Lights Denver, “a permanent way for The Denver Theatre District to support innovative artists with an experimental platform while attracting people downtown to experience a free, unique experience.” And did you know there is a cabaret in the basement?! Check out Clock Tower Cabaret for details on live events.

“The two most powerful warriors are patience and time.”

- Leo Tolstoy, *War and Peace*



*“I always forget - when we switch to Daylight Savings Time, do we gain a billable hour or do we lose one?”*